

Remarks

This is in response to the Final Office Action mailed December 5, 2008. Claims 1-4, 8, 12-15, 17, 19-23 and 27 are amended. Claims 1-4, 8, 12-15, 17, 19-23, and 27 remain pending. Withdrawal of the pending rejections and advancement of this application to allowance are requested for at least the following reasons.

I. Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

A. Claims 1, 3-4, 12, 14-15, 17, 20, and 22-23

In section 7 of the Action, claims 1, 3-4, 12, 14-15, 17, 20, and 22-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hurley et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,678,882 B1) in view of Freeman et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2001/0049717 A1). This rejection is respectfully traversed, and reconsideration is requested for the following reasons.

Claim 1 is directed to a method for synchronizing a plurality of instances of a storage platform for a hardware/software interface system. Claim 1 recites, in part, storing, at a first electronic computer system, a first relational database, the first relational database comprising a local version of an item, a first folder item, and a first relationship declaration, the first relationship declaration specifying that the local version of the item belongs to the first folder item, the local version of the item comprising a set of elements, the local version of the item comprising a change unit, the change unit including at least one element in the set of elements, the local version of the item comprising a first version number, the local version of the item conforming to a local format, the first folder item mapped to a community folder, the community folder being an abstraction that represents a shared folder with which each of the instances of the storage platform synchronizes.

Hurley fails to disclose a method for synchronizing multiple instances of a storage platform in which a first folder item is mapped to a community folder, the community folder being an abstraction that represents a shared folder with which each of the instances of the storage platform synchronizes. The current Office Action does not suggest that Hurley teaches such a community folder. Rather, the current Office Action relies upon Freeman to teach the community folder.

Freeman also fails to disclose a method for synchronizing a plurality of instances of a storage platform in which the first folder item mapped to a community folder, the community folder being an abstraction that represents a shared folder with which each of the instances of the storage platform synchronizes. Freeman is directed to communication between servers. See Freeman, ¶ 0001. Freeman discloses a common database that is accessible by all of the servers 180 in the farm 110 for accessing and storing some types of data. Id. at ¶ 0109. The common database being accessible by the servers as disclosed in Freeman does not disclose or suggest a community folder that represents a shared folder with which each of the plurality of instances synchronizes, as required by claim 1 of the present application.

As such, neither Hurley nor Freeman, alone or in combination, discloses or suggests all limitations of independent claim 1. Reconsideration and allowance of claim 1, as well as claims 3 and 4 that depend therefrom, are therefore requested.

Claims 12 and 20, although not identical in scope to claim 1, include limitations similar to those noted above with respect to claim 1. Claims 12 and 20 should therefore be allowable for at least similar reasons to those provided above with respect to claim 1. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 12 and 20, as well as claims 14-15, 17 and 22-23 that depend therefrom respectively, are therefore requested.

B. Claims 2, 13, and 21

In section 8 of the Action, claims 2, 13, and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hurley in view of Freeman and in further view of Kawamichi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,181,470 B1).

As discussed above, independent claims 1, 12, and 20 are patentable. Claims 2, 13, and 21 depend from one of the independent claims 1, 12, and 20. Claims 2, 13, and 21 are therefore patentable for at least the same reasons as those provided above for claims 1, 12, and 20. Namely, Hurley and Freeman, alone or in combination, fail to teach all of the elements of the claims. Kawamichi fails to compensate for the deficiency in Hurley and Freeman. The correctness of the rejection is not conceded. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 2, 13, and 21 are therefore respectfully requested.

C. Claims 8, 19, and 27

Finally, in section 9 of the Action, claims 8, 19, and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hurley in view of Freeman and in further view of Ooe et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,737,743 A).

As discussed above, independent claims 1, 12, and 20 are patentable. Claims 8, 19, and 27 depend from one of the independent claims 1, 12, and 20. Claims 8, 19, and 27 are therefore patentable for at least the same reasons as those provided above for claims 1, 12, and 20. Namely, Hurley and Freeman, alone or in combination, fail to teach all of the elements of the claims. Ooe fails to compensate for the deficiency in Hurley and Freeman. The correctness of the rejection is not conceded. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 8, 19, and 27 are therefore respectfully requested.

II. Conclusion

The remarks set forth above provide certain arguments in support of the patentability of the pending claims. There may be other reasons that the pending claims are patentably distinct over the cited references, and the right to raise any such other reasons or arguments in the future is expressly reserved.

Favorable reconsideration in the form of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. Please contact the undersigned attorney with any questions regarding this application. Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our Deposit Account 13-2725.

Respectfully submitted,
MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300

Date: June 5, 2009

/Albert W. Vredeveld/
Name: Albert W. Vredeveld
Reg. No.: 60,315